



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273
FEMA-1411-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #7
Monday, 13 May 2002**

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

1200 hours 11 May 2002 through 1200 hours 13 May 2002. (New information in italics)

2. SITUATION:

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greenville, and Shenandoah Counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City and the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Shenandoah, and Greenville on 28 April 2002.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

Local emergencies were declared in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties on 2 May 2002.

On 3 May 2002, Governor Warner requested that President Bush declare a major disaster for Bedford, Campbell, Greenville, Shenandoah, Buchanan, Tazewell, Cumberland, and Prince Edward counties and for the cities of Colonial Heights and Bedford.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

On 8 May 2002, the Major Disaster Declaration was amended to include Public Assistance for the counties of Buchanan and Tazewell.

Functions at the Wise DFO established in a prior declared disaster, DR-1406-VA, have been expanded to include operations for DR-1411-VA. The DFO hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs Monday through Saturday. The DFO will continue to be closed on Sundays. Situation Reports will be published daily.

In the flash flooding event in Hurley, Virginia, two deaths are confirmed, 0 missing. There have been *10 work related injuries* reported. Power has been restored to 75-80 percent of the Hurley area. Telephone service is restored. Buchanan County schools have reopened but schools in Hurley will remain closed until further notice.

State agencies and other representatives on the scene include: Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Army National Guard (ANG), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Veterans Administration (VA), American Red Cross (ARC), Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VVOAD), *Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)*, *Adventist Disaster Services*, Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board, and clean up crews from the Virginia Southern Baptist Disaster Services, Virginia Department of Corrections(DOC), and Virginia Wilderness Institute.

3. WEATHER:

Monday: Through 1500 hrs an area of showers with a few thunderstorms will move east at 40 mph across northeast Tennessee and southwest Virginia. Strong gusty winds, heavy rain, and deadly lightning are possible. Rainfall up to three quarters of an inch per hour is possible, which may produce ponding of low-lying areas and street flooding. Highs near 70, lows tonight in the mid 40s. Tuesday: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s, lows in the lower 40s. West winds 10-15 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Prepare for Community Meeting in Hurley.
- B. Integrate Americorps into the Hurley Recovery effort.
- C. Assess housing needs and availability.
- D. Assist in Hurley Recovery in Buchanan County.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:

A. Individual Assistance (IA):

- A fixed Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is located at the Hurley Elementary and Middle School on Route 643 in Hurley, Virginia as of Tuesday, 7 May 2002. Hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs seven days a week. Effective Monday, 13 May 2002, new hours of operation will be 0900 hrs through 1800 hrs seven days a week.
- The Tazewell DRC will be located in the Old County Administration Building, 315 School Street, Tazewell, VA 24651 as of Monday, 13 May 2002. Hours of operation will be from 0900 to 1800 hrs 7 days a week.

- Residents requiring disaster assistance are being referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. These numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 0700 to 1900 hrs.

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER

Daily Report

Hurley, Buchanan County, May 2002

Date	Today's Recp.	Phone Bank	AA*	SBA*	HazMit*	IFG*	DUA*	CC*	IRS*	AGRI*	INS*	AGING*	VOL*	LEGAL*	Local Official	Paper Apps.
05/12	22	4	20	11	14	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	196	76	154	136	148	5	25	4	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	18

*Applicant Assistance (AA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Hazard Mitigation (HazMit), Individual & Family Grants (IFG), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Crisis Counseling (CC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Bureau (AGRI), Insurance Help (INS), Aging Services (AGING), Volunteer Agencies (VOL), Legal Help (LEGAL)

- The State has a combination DRC Manager/ Donations Manager located at the Hurley DRC as of 10 May 2002.
- The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has made food donations to Knox Food Pantry and has clarified recipient eligibility with the Food Pantry.
- A Hurley community meeting will be held on Thursday, 16 May 2002 at 1900 hrs at the Hurley Middle School. Hurley and Buchanan residents will be able to talk to Federal and Commonwealth Officials about issues related to recovery.
- Red Cross is distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists. Meals served totals 11,020, six shelters have been opened, 136 people have been sheltered, *one person sheltered currently*, a service center is open, and there have been 60 mental health contacts to date. Red Cross Family Services staff is located on the second floor of the high school in Hurley adjacent to the DRC site as of 9 May 2002 and is fielding outreach service teams in the area.
- The Commonwealth has appointed a liaison to coordinate clean up efforts to be performed by the fifty (50) Americorps workers beginning operations in Hurley on Tuesday, 14 May 2002. FEMA is providing a CR person to assist.*
- Donated goods located at the Hurley Middle School are scheduled to be moved to a warehouse site, the Schell Building in Grundy, Virginia between Grundy and Vansant on Wednesday, 15 May 2002. Seventh Day Adventists are on site to manage warehouse functions.*
- The Regional Health Department has administered 887 tetanus shots to residents and workers at the Hurley Middle School. Hours for the clinic for 11 May 2002 will be from 1000 hrs to 1300 hrs.
- Food and water is being distributed at the school; 2000 gallons of potable water available for distribution to disaster victims in Hurley. *Another 5000 gallons will be delivered 13 May 2002.* More will be made available as needed.
- The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) is assisting Buchanan County in finding housing for victims.

- The Virginia Health Department continues its “boil water” advisory for the Hurley area and is providing information on restarting wells.
- Donations are being received at the Hurley Middle School. No more clothing donations are being accepted. Cash donations are being accepted by the Clinch Independent Living Services, PO Box 2741, Grundy, Virginia 24614. Requested items include cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, diapers, food, rakes and shovels, and work gloves.
- The Human Services Program Summary as of COB 12 May 2002 follows:

REGISTRATIONS & CONTACTS

	<i>Since Last Report</i>	<i>Designated Cities/Counties</i>	<i>Undesignated Counties</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>
<i>Teleregistrations</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>797/1</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>819</i>
<i>Helpline Calls</i>	<i>43</i>			<i>140</i>

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

<i>CLAIMS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Filed</i>		
<i>Approved</i>		
<i>Paid (#)</i>		
<i>Paid (\$)</i>		

Disaster Housing Program

<i>REGISTRATIONS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Received</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>718</i>
<i>Approved</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>156</i>
<i>Pending</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>523</i>
<i>Approved Eligible (\$)</i>	<i>\$66,332.23</i>	<i>\$288,927.75</i>
<i>Assistance Checks**</i>		
<i>Recommended (#)</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>119</i>
<i>Recommended (\$)</i>	<i>\$94,531.32</i>	<i>\$225,689.12</i>

Individual & Family Grant Program

<i>REGISTRATIONS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Received</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>404</i>
<i>Received by State</i>		
<i>Pending Decision</i>		
<i>Eligible (#)</i>		
<i>Eligible (\$)</i>		
<i>Disbursed (#)</i>		
<i>Disbursed (\$)</i>		

Small Business Administration*

<i>LOAN APPLICATIONS</i>	<i>HOME</i>	<i>BUSINESS</i>	<i>ECONOMIC INJURY (EIDL)</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Issued</i>	<i>314</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>395</i>
<i>Received</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Declined</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Withdrawn</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Approved (#)</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Approved (\$)</i>	<i>\$68,900</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$68,900</i>
<i>Pending</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>14</i>

* SBA figures are as of COB 11 May 2002.

** Assistance Checks as of COB 10 May 2002.

- The Virginia Bar Association has activated a toll-free Disaster Legal Services Number, 1-800-552-7977, to provide emergency legal services to disaster victims.

- Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board is functioning out of the Hurley DRC and is providing Mental Health, Crisis Counseling, and Critical Stress Debriefing services as needed.
- Disaster assistance for Buchanan County has been expanded to include Emergency Food Stamps. Applications will be accepted 13 May 2002 through 17 from 0830 hrs to 1600 hrs at the Social Security office on Route 83 at Slate Creek. Contact for information is Buchanan County Social Services at 276-935-8106.
- A phone bank has been established to coordinate volunteer groups offering assistance. Volunteers can call 276-935-7419; identify nature of call, what services they wish to perform, and a callback number.
- *The Claypool Hill/Richlands Lowe's has donated \$3,000 worth of shovels and clean-up equipment for disaster victims*

B. Public Assistance (PA)

- *Three (3) Requests for Public Assistance (RPAs) have been received and three kick-off meetings have been held.*
- *Current damage estimate totals \$6,997,089.94. The current eligible project worksheet amounts to \$47,201.46.*
- The National Guard was activated 3 May 2002 and assisted by installing temporary bridges. Later assistance has been and continues to be in debris clearance in the Hurley area, with deployment through 17 May 2002.

C. Community Relations (CR):

- Three (3) FEMA Field Officers are deployed, one in Tazewell County and two in Buchanan County.
- One VDEM Field Officer is deployed in the Buchanan County. *An additional Field Officer worked in Tazewell County on Sunday, 12 May 2002.*
- *Contacts continue to be made to insure registration of eligible residents.*
- VDEM Flood Recovery Bulletins, 1-800 and DRC flyers, and *FEMA Recovery Times* are being distributed throughout affected areas in Buchanan County.
- Audiotapes of disaster assistance information are available.
- A temporary Post Office for Hurley has been established in *Blackey* at the *Blackey* Teen Center. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.
- Individuals unable to work because of severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia may file for Disaster Unemployment Assistance at the nearest VEC field office by no later than 10 June 2002.

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

- State Hazard Mitigation staff is scheduled to view Hurley area *14 May 2002.*
- Data is being extracted from study maps and data set from Army Corps of Engineers to assist Buchanan County to become compliant with NFIP reconstruction and renovation.
- Survey of stream damage in Buchanan & Tazewell Counties by NRCS anticipated week of 20 May.
- Draft of Administrative & Hazard Mitigation strategy plan will be drafted for submission to the DFO/SCO week of 13 May.

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

- Recovery Times has been updated for Tazewell and Buchanan Counties is available for distribution.
- Issued news releases regarding Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) eligibility for affected residents in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties and the 10 June 2002 deadline for filing with VEC; opening & hours for Tazewell DRC; and new hours for the Buchanan County (Hurley) DRC.
- Issued "Potential Hazards Lurk in Debris" news release for consumer safety.

F. Legislative Liaison:

- *An Environmental Scoping Meeting will be held at the DFO in Wise, Conference Room #3, at 1030 hrs on 15 May 2002. Environmental and permitting information will be shared by appropriate federal agencies with attendees.*
- *Congressional representatives have been invited to attend a meeting at the Wise DFO, Conference Room #1, at 1400 hrs on 15 May 2002 for a discussion of any disaster issues in their respective areas.*
- *A staff member of US Congressman Virgil Goode called 13 May 2002 regarding availability of assistance for tornado victims in his district. Designations of these jurisdictions has not yet been determined.*

G. Hazardous Materials:

- Residents who find HazMat containers, drums, or spills on their property are being encouraged to call 276-566-8524 and regional HazMat responders will assess the situation and take corrective measures.
- *Reconnaissance teams have covered 128 miles of waterway and roadway, checking on foot, by boat, and by vehicle for hazardous materials.*
- Significant HazMat operations are ongoing in Buchanan County. HazMat Teams from Wise County, Giles County and City of Salem have worked nearly 1,150 hours since the beginning of the event. *Items recovered include 11-20 lb., 15-100 lb., 11 large (100-500 lb.) propane tanks, 1-20 gal. drum, 8-35 gal. drums, 69-55 gal. drums, 27-65 gal. drums, 8-275 gal. tanks, 10-550 gal. tanks, 3-1,000 gal. tanks, numerous 5-gal. containers, 2 gas pumps, 2 kerosene heaters, 6 pressure tanks, 4 vehicle gas tanks, 1 cylinder, 1 transformer, and miscellaneous pesticides. Disposal operations are ongoing. A mobile HazMat command post has been established outside of the Hurley Middle School in Hurley. DEQ is working out of the HazMat command post. Local propane companies have assisted by removing tanks from the area.*

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13 May 2002

Michael M. Cline, SCO